

**Our King Has Come And He Alone Saves**  
**Acts 3:1-4:12 (April 6, 2025)**



Which is more loving?

The way of Buddha – there are many paths to heaven?

Or the way of Christ – I am the only way?

Ultimately, it all comes down to truth.

**Is there only one way?**

Christianity stands or falls on the truth that Jesus Christ of Nazareth is God and the only way of salvation.

But this has always led to accusations of arrogance and exclusivity.

When I first heard the gospel – I struggled mightily with this.

If I were God:

I would have as many paths to heaven as possible to make it easy for all to get there.

I would save everyone except perhaps those who having understood all the facts still said – but I don't want your heaven – I would not want to violate their free will.

I most certainly would not have a hell for them – just annihilation.

And I would have a reward system to encourage good behaviour in this life.

That seems the right way to run a universe.

But there is a problem with this – I am not God – and my system would not save anyone.

Here is what we will see this morning.



**Jesus might not be the Messiah you want – but He is only Messiah who can save you.**

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Before Jesus was born – many Jewish teachers wrote about Messiah.

When Messiah did come – none had been even remotely close to the truth.

If we got to fashion our own Saviour – He would **not** look like Jesus and certainly would **not** provide salvation the way Jesus did.

And no one would create a Messiah who comes in weakness, dies in ignominy and then says – I am the only way – and the way is narrow and few will find it.

Let me tell you that this has **always** been a deeply unpopular message.

It was decidedly unpopular in the days of Jesus and it remains so today.

The Jews hated this message.



They had a perfectly good system that got every worthy Jew to heaven, rewarded those who did many good works, kept the Gentiles out and seemed to be the one God ordained.

Jesus said you have misread the Scriptures and are just the blind leading other blind over a cliff.

Today – Jesus’ message declares that Muslims, Mormons, Buddhists, atheists – all are wrong and unless they come to Jesus they will be lost eternally.

No wonder the world hates Jesus – and us.

Look, if Jesus said – I have a truth and you have your truth. No one would have cared less.

But when He said – **I am the truth** – that changed everything.

But here is the elephant in the room that few want to address – **if He is the truth** – it would be wrong, unloving and evil to not proclaim this truth.

Our passage this morning is clear – whether anyone likes it or not – would do it that way or not – there is salvation in **no other name**.

We are in the book of Acts and we have seen that its message for us is:



**We must strive to see His kingdom come, through the empowering of His Spirit, by witnessing to the nations, until He comes again.**

There is a message that Jesus wants to go to out to every nation.

That message is that there is salvation in no other name than the name of Jesus.

But before that message goes to the world – it had to go to the Jews beginning in Jerusalem.

I remind you that Acts 1:8 gives this book its structure.



We are in the first section where the gospel is reaching Jerusalem.

But there is something else I want you to see.



After each act of Jesus – **His Kingdom Comes – His Church Grows.**

The mustard seed spreads and the day of the King's return grows ever closer.

In chapters 3-6, we will see the kingdom grow and spread throughout Jerusalem.

And there is a message – a clear triumphant message that the church trumpeted throughout Jerusalem.



**Our King Has Come And He Alone Saves.**

**And His Kingdom Comes And It Is Unstoppable.**

Not exactly subtle is it?

Not exactly inclusive of other philosophies.

Imagine how this sounded to the leaders of the Jews?

The ones tasked with leading God's chosen people.

These fishermen and nobodies were saying – *they* had truth and *only* their truth saves – and what we God's appointed leaders teach is wrong.

**Who do they think they are?**

And even more than that – the leaders of the Jews believed their message was dangerous.

They were promoting a cult of a false Messiah.



Someone who said salvation was not through being Jewish, being circumcised, making the sacrifices.

The leaders had deemed Jesus so dangerous to the truth that they had him killed – and now these fools were saying – that One you killed – not the Temple, not the Law – He is the way to heaven.

Conflict was inevitable and it arrives in chapters 3 and 4.

**First – because of the message.**



**3:1-26 Jesus is Messiah – only He could heal physically – so repent.**

Can God heal? – absolutely. According to His sovereign will He heals then and at times today.

But, in the Bible – the times He gave His people the ability to heal was in order to validate their message.

**In this case to prove Jesus is the Messiah.**

Remember where we are. The church is just days old.

In Acts 1:8 Jesus had said to His Apostles – **you** will be my witnesses. **You** will speak for me.

And these ex-fishermen were saying to everyone who would listen – sorry but the Jesus you killed – He is the true Messiah and the only way of salvation.

There were two main times of prayer – afternoon prayer is at three in the Temple – so Peter and John are heading to afternoon prayer.

At the entrance they see a man lame from birth. Each day his friends placed him there. The pious Jews are making their way in to pray – and giving alms was expected.

This was probably the choice real estate in Jerusalem for begging.

Peter and John are approaching – they look kind and generous, so he calls out asking them for money.

Most beggars look down – trying to look needy.

Peter and John look straight at him and say – **Look at us!**

I imagine most people just walked past this man.

Go into the city – there are plenty of people begging – 99% of people just walk past and both the beggar and the people do everything to avoid eye contact.

But these two men stop and say – **Look at us!**

Verse 5 – He looks up. Awesome. I have picked out a couple of generous ones and they are going to give me money.

Verse 6:

**But** Peter said, “I don’t have silver or gold.”

No money. You are kidding right?

You can feel this man’s hopes deflate – great – why even call out? Am I going to get a lecture on how I must have sinned to deserve this – or a challenge to find some way of supporting myself other than begging? – OK just spit it out.

But Peter says this:

I don’t have silver or gold but what I do have, I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, get up and walk!

OK that was something new.

**Get up and walk!**

You do realise these limbs don’t work. I have been lame since birth – never walked – can’t walk.

You did see my twisted crippled legs.

A few alms would be better than telling me to walk.

But then something in this man changed. Verse 7:

Then, taking him by the right hand he raised him up, and at once his feet and ankles became strong.

It takes faith to even try and stand. He came to believe Jesus can do this.

The one who can enable you to walk – is Jesus of Nazareth.

Imagine your brain telling legs that have never moved – stand up. And then feeling your feet and ankles straighten and strength fill your withered muscles.

And for the first time in your life, you are standing and looking down instead of on the ground and looking up.

So, verse 8 – you try something radical – a little jump. Wow – got off the ground – what is going on?

OK – everyone from one year old just takes walking for granted – something basic and crucial to life – but this man has **never** walked.

Time to see what these straightened, strengthened puppies can do.

He takes a step – then another – look at me everyone – I'm walking.

Never walked with everyone into the Temple before – ah – forget walking – this is a day for leaping and dancing – and not to forget praising God.

We need to understand that the lame, the blemished, the outcasts could **not** enter into the inner areas of the Temple.

This man is healed and thus for the first time able to enter the Temple and worship God.

Verses 9–10:

All the people saw him walking and praising God, and they recognized that he was the one who used to sit and beg at the Beautiful Gate of the temple. So they were filled with awe and astonishment at what had happened to him.

Twice a day all of these people went to the Temple to pray.

Every single time this man was there – part of the furniture. Twisted shrivelled feet and a bowl for begging.

They felt pity and every few months chucked some alms in.

Now they see this same man walking, running, leaping, dancing – straight legs, working legs – and he is giving thanks to Jesus for this very obvious miracle.

**OK something astonishing is happening. But why?**



Remember back when Peter addressed the crowd on Pentecost and he wanted to prove that Jesus was the Messiah – where did he start?

Acts 2:22:

Fellow Israelites, listen to these words: This Jesus of Nazareth was a man **attested to you by God with miracles, wonders, and signs.**

When Jesus began His ministry – He didn't do it in secret. Nothing hidden at all.

God appeared at His baptism and said – **this is My Son.**

In Luke 4 Jesus stands up – quotes Isaiah 61 about the Messiah and says – The Spirit of the Lord is on Me – this passage speaks of Me!

When John the Baptist had doubts Jesus said – tell John – the blind receive their sight, **the lame walk**, those with leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised.

I am doing miracles only Messiah can do – believe what you see.

OK – so why did God enable the Apostles to do this miracle?

In the same way – this miracle validated the truth they spoke – the truth that **Jesus is the Messiah.**

Understand, this was not some shady bogus miracle – this is not leg-lengthening, healing a migraine or a sore back.

Look down to Acts 4:16:

For an obvious sign has been done through them, clear to everyone living in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it.

Even their enemies knew this was an undeniable miracle of divine power that you can't just ignore.

Satan can fake a few minor tricks.

False teachers can deceive with minor illusions and suggestion.

But something like this says – this is truly of God.

There is a huge difference between some shady parlour tricks and genuine undisputable miracles that even your enemies can't discredit.

In 1830, Joseph Smith announced that God had spoken to him via the angel Moroni. Joseph claimed that he was God's prophet for these latter days.

But, he was condemned by the church from day one.

Why? Mainly because his revelation was palpably false – it denied the core of the gospel – it denied truths such as the deity of Jesus.

Add to that – Smith's own life was a mess – con man, polygamous, underage marriage, illegal acts.

But Smith countered saying – you should believe I am legit because I can do miracles.

The problem is his so-called miracles were really shady and dubious to say the least. He did no publicly verifiable miracles like healing a man born lame.

Most of his were much more akin to Benny Hinn miracles.

There were some dubious reports of more significant miracles – but they were not done publicly and many people later came forward saying they were pressured to lie about these supposed miracles.

True Christians looked at him and said – sorry – we don't buy your miracles – you are nothing but a false prophet.

Not here.

Even the leaders of Israel could not discredit this miracle.

So – what is the point of these opening verses?

Is it – next time you see someone in the city begging – we are to say – Look at me – silver and gold have I none – well that's not actually true – but none of what I have is for you – for you I have a shiny new gospel tract – spiritual healing – far better than money?

**No!**

Is it that the church today should be able to heal like this and then those atheists in King George Square will pay attention?

**No!**

The point was this – this miracle proved that **Jesus is the true Messiah.**

To make this point – Peter then asks them two questions in verse 12.

**Q1. Why are you amazed at this?**

OK. If saw a genuine healing – I would be amazed.

Are you kidding – of course we are amazed – we can't believe our eyes. The guy who has been lame since birth is leaping around the Temple. We have never seen anything like it.

But Peter is getting at something deeper.

*You **shouldn't** be amazed.*

Passages like Zephaniah 3 and Micah 4 specifically name healing the lame as miracles of Messiah.

Peter is saying – hey fellow Jews – do you believe that the Messiah can do a miracle like this or not?

If you do – then why are you amazed when Messiah works through His messengers in this way?

You have seen the miracle – now believe the message – even though everything inside you doesn't want to.

**Q2. Why do you stare at us, as though we had made him walk by our own power or godliness?**

You are in danger of missing what this miracle means.

I hope you don't think this was us – that this power came from a couple of Galilean fishermen?

Making the lame walk – that is beyond any man.

**This is clearly the power of the God-man – the Messiah – Jesus of Nazareth.**

Verses 13–15:

The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, has glorified his servant Jesus.

God glorified Jesus – as the Messiah – through miracles, on the cross and in His resurrection and ascension – and **now** through this miracle right before your eyes.

But you rejected Him as Messiah.

You handed Him over and denied Him before Pilate, though he had decided to release him. You denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer released to you.

Pilate wanted to let Him go – but you my fellow Jews wouldn't have a bar of it.

Pilate put up Barabbas as an option thinking you God-fearing Jews would never let a murderer go.

You chose the murderer.

You killed the source of life.

Despite God attesting Him – you killed Him. The one hope for eternal life. The One we had been waiting for since Abraham – the true Seed – and you killed Him.

Just pause for a moment.

This is an astonishing statement.

The Jews had been waiting generations for Messiah – praying for Messiah – weeping for Him to come and rescue them.

In the fullness of time – Messiah **did** come.

He fulfilled **every** prophecy – born in Bethlehem, of the tribe of Judah, a descendant of David, born of a virgin.

His life screamed – Messiah.

Angels split the skies crying – rejoice – your King is born.

At His baptism – God Himself said – this is My Son.

He performed the very miracles of Messiah – healing the lame and blind – raising the dead. No one does this except by the true power of God.

There was a palpable excitement throughout Israel – are we living in the days of Messiah?

On Palm Sunday – the crowds lined the streets – Hosannah to the Son of David.

**So – why did they hand Him over and deny Him?**

Because He wasn't the Messiah they wanted.

The Jews had understood certain Old Testament passages to mean Messiah will come and set up a Jewish kingdom.

Like David's – only greater.

He would overthrow Rome and bring a golden age of blessing for all Jews.

And this was the consensus teaching of the leaders of Israel.

They had taught – you get to be saved and enter this golden age – by being a Jew and doing your best to keep the Law.

Jesus turns up and says – that is **not** what those passages mean.

My kingdom is not of this world. I am not setting up a physical kingdom for the Jews.



Instead, you My people will be persecuted and struggle until I come again.

And you don't get in by being a Jews and keeping enough Law – you get in by faith in Me.

And they said – no way – we don't want that kind of Messiah. You are not our King.

Rome – please crucify Him.

Do you realise the arrogance of that?

God says this is my Son. Jesus works divine miracles.

But when they realise He is not who they want and is not giving them the kind of kingdom they want – they said – we reject you.

Jesus offered them life.

He proved He can fulfil that offer through His miracles and we are talking miracles that simply must come from God.

And they say – sorry we want our kingdom now. If you are not delivering then despite this overwhelming proof – You will not be My King.

Even today – there is so much evidence that Jesus lived and that His miracles were attested.

But for many, He is not the Messiah they want.

My God would not have a hell.

My God would have many ways to heaven.

My God would allow me to earn reward.

My God would make my life easier.

My God would not let children suffer.

I will **not** have you as my King or my God.

But there is no other God.

Peter goes on. This miracle was not the only uncomfortable fact they had to ignore.

Verse 15:

God raised [Him] from the dead; we are witnesses of this.

Do you really think God would raise someone who is not the Messiah from the dead?

You ignored the resurrection. But can you really ignore our friend here leaping around?  
Verse 16:

By faith in **his name**, **his name** has made this man strong, whom you see and know. So the faith that comes through **Jesus** has given him this perfect health in front of all of you.

Don't miss Peter's point.

We didn't do this. Satan didn't do this. Medicine didn't do this.

Jesus did.

**But now we come to the sticking point.**

In verses 17-26 Peter says – **don't just be amazed by this – accept what it means and repent.**

You rejected Jesus once. In fact, you killed Him.

But this Messiah you rejected is so gracious He offers you another chance.

But this will be it. Reject Him now and there is no other way of salvation.

Verse 17:

And now, brothers and sisters, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your leaders also did.

I think that is fairly gracious.

Despite His miracles, declarations from heaven and fulfilled prophecy – I accept somehow your spiritual blindness meant you didn't really know you were killing the Messiah.

Verse 18:

In this way God fulfilled what he had predicted through all the prophets—that his Messiah would suffer.

Your blindness allowed God to fulfil the plan through the suffering and death of Jesus.

**However**, *now* you can no longer claim ignorance.

You have all heard our testimony that Jesus rose. You have all seen the healing of the man born lame – you have more than enough proof that Jesus is the Messiah – now there is only one thing for you to do – repent and bow the knee to Jesus as Lord and Messiah.

Verse 19 – repent so that your sins can be wiped out.

Verse 20 – repent so that now you can have seasons of refreshing that come from the presence of the Lord.

These Jews should feel like the ones at Pentecost – pierced to the heart.

We killed the Messiah – the source of life.

But there is hope – repent and God will forgive.

Accept the offer of forgiveness in the cross and instead of crushing guilt they can have refreshing freedom.

This is the glory of the gospel.

For 22 years I lived a life far from the Lord.

But when the gospel began to work on my heart – I felt this crushing guilt. I had sinned against almighty God – how could I ever be forgiven?

And then the glory of the gospel dawned. In Christ **every** sin is paid for – in Christ I **am** washed clean.

Jesus paid it all. I felt free for the first time in my life.

If you have never known this refreshing relief – Jesus offers it freely to all.

These Jews killed the Messiah – yet there is the hope of forgiveness.

And – verses 20 and 21 – repentance and faith in Christ will lead to freedom when Jesus returns in judgment.

These Jews killed Jesus – but their day of reckoning had not come.

Heaven has received Jesus – for a time. He waits at the right hand of the Father – but only until the time of the restoration of all things, which God spoke about through his holy prophets from the beginning.

God's judgment will not wait forever.

Peter is referring to what theologians call – the session of Christ.

The time where Christ is seated in heaven – ruling – but awaiting the day of judgment.

The day will come when Jesus will stand and return to this world in wrath and judgment – and He will restore His rightful rule and reign over everything.

It is not that He is not King today – it is simply that rebels do not acknowledge Him as King.

But He is coming in judgment and all will acknowledge Him as King – all will bow the knee to Him.

And only those who have turned to Christ in repentance and faith will stand.

Only those who are spiritually healed – their sins forgiven – will stand.

Only those who acknowledge in this life that Jesus is their Lord and King.

Verse 22 – Moses promised a prophet like him would come. Peter says – that one is Jesus.

Deny that – and verse 23 – you are cut off – lost forever – without hope.

To reject Him is to be cut off from the people – forever – because there is no other way of salvation.

### **Verses 24-26.**

It is not just Moses – Samuel and every prophet pointed to the coming of Jesus.

He is the centre of the Old Testament. It all points to Him.

He is the centre of all world history. It all depends on Him.

The promise to Abraham was that **all the families of the earth will be blessed through your offspring – the Seed – Jesus.**

Jews **and** Gentiles – men and women from every nation – will find blessing in Jesus.

But the offer comes to the Jews first – to you.

The Jews were the chosen people so Messiah comes to the house of Israel – first.

The offer of salvation will come to the Gentiles later – Acts 9 onwards – but Jesus came first to the house of Israel – and despite the fact they handed Him over to be killed – Jesus still offers them salvation – **if** they repent – so trust Him and turn from your evil ways.

OK – so what is the sticking point?

They have seen the miracle.

Jesus offers forgiveness, salvation, eternal life.

So why don't these Jews rush to bow the knee?



For the same reason we don't.

There are bits of Jesus we all like.

I suspect there would have been many Jews there that day watching longingly at the leaping man who once was lame.

Many could have done with a little physical healing.

Bad neck here.

Painful knee arthritis there.

Bit of insomnia over here.

They like the healing Jesus.

If Jesus is offering healing – great.

**BUT – the King did not come just to heal our bodies – He came to heal our souls.**

Remember the healing of the lame man in Mark 2?

Mark 2:9–11:

Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat, and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins"—he told the paralytic—"I tell you: get up, take your mat, and go home."

The physical healing was done to show that Jesus can also heal spiritually – He can forgive sins.

If He healed them – they all grow old, will get sick again and die.

They need healing forever.

But, here is the sticking point.

**REPENT.**

You are a sinner who cannot save yourself.

There is only one Saviour – Jesus.

Bow the knee to Him.

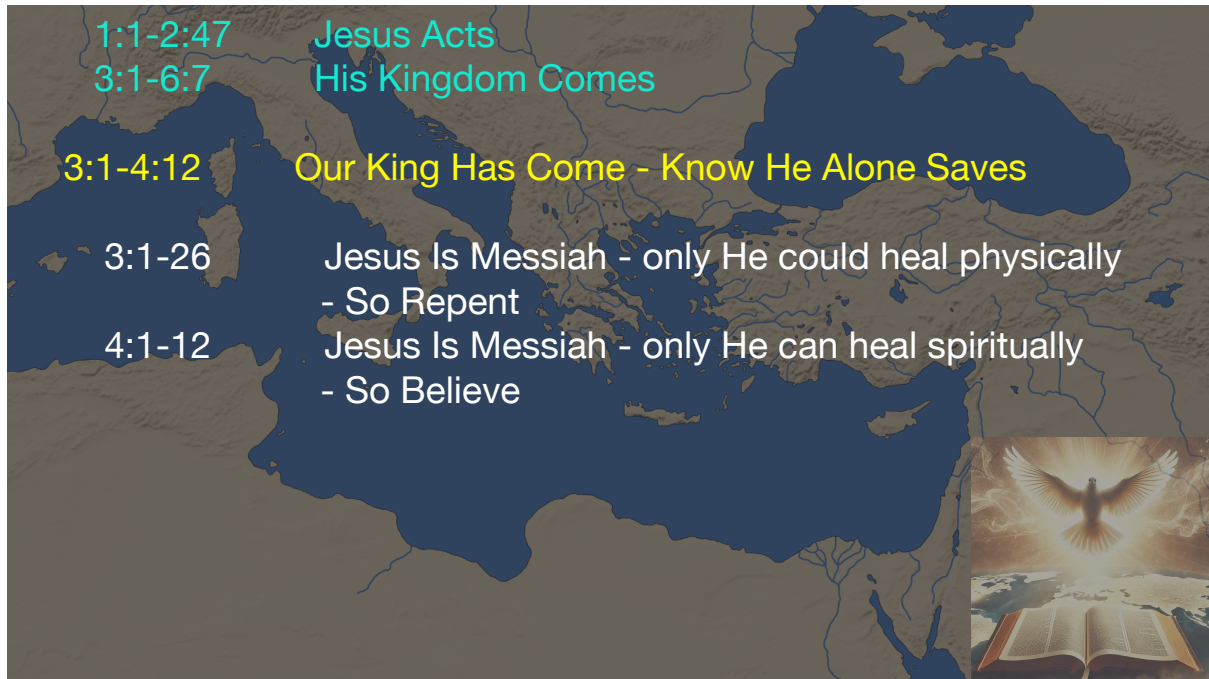
Give up your life to Him.

Serve Him and Him alone.

If those are Jesus' terms – *well no thanks*.

But here is the truth – we don't get to decide the terms – Jesus does.

Here are His terms:



**4:1-12      Jesus is Messiah – only He can heal spiritually – so believe.**

The showdown arrives.

In chapter 4 verses 1-3 we find that the leaders of the Jews were annoyed or upset – because Peter and John were teaching the people. This seems to primarily be a reference to them teaching that Jesus is the Messiah.

But also because they were proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection of the dead. They did not like this because the Sadducees didn't believe in the resurrection of the dead – and because the resurrection was the great proof that Jesus was the Messiah.

So, they were seized and imprisoned – but the kingdom kept growing.

Turns out many of those who heard Peter's message in chapter 3 believed.

The church had been 3000 now it is 5000 men who believe.

It was clear to the Jews that the Jesus issue was not going away.

Verses 5–7:

The next day, their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and all the members of the

high-priestly family. After they had Peter and John stand before them, they began to question them: “By what power or in what name have you done this?”

These are the biggest of the big guns. The rulers, elders, scribes – Annas the former high priest, Caiaphas his son-in-law the current high priest, John and Alexander likely other leading priests.

This group – the Sanhedrin – was known to conduct these affairs in a semi-circle with those being questioned in the middle.

This had to be more than a little intimidating.

This is a show of authority and force.

And they ask this question:

**By what power or in what name have you done this?**

Here is the issue.

They knew the power and the name – Peter had broadcast it around.

In chapter 3 verse 16 – Peter had said – the power that did this is the name of Jesus.

They simply could not have this. It undercut their authority and their message.

Remember this is the very same group that had met to put Jesus to death.

Peter and John’s lives are absolutely on the line.

This is a threat – we strongly suggest you reconsider your answer.

The suggestion is that there are answers we could all live with. Give us an answer we can all live with.

They would probably have been OK if Peter said – you know as I think about it this miracle was by the power of Yahweh, the God of Israel – who you Sanhedrin so faithfully serves.

Or – you know it is possible that we inadvertently drew on the power of Satan.

Or – even an answer like – we don’t know – it just happened – I just touched him and bang – walking and leaping.

The **only** answer they would not accept is – by the power of the name of Jesus.

Why?

If you read Matthew 26 you find that this very group – the Sanhedrin – including Caiaphas, the chief priests, the scribes and the elders questioned Jesus.

Caiaphas asked Jesus – are you the Messiah, the Son of God?

This is always **the** great question.

Jesus said – yes and you will see Me coming on the clouds of heaven.

But instead of bowing the knee – Caiaphas said – Blasphemy – He deserves death.

Why?

Because Jesus did not fit his view of Messiah.

He had no room for a divine God-man.

He had no room for One who is the end of the Law, the sacrifices, the priesthood.

So, He had to go.

If Jesus had simply come as a prophet or teacher – the Jews could have worked with that.

If Jesus simply healed and taught – they might have even found a seat on the Sanhedrin.

But when Jesus said – before Abraham was – I am. I and the Father are one. You will see the Son of Man on the clouds.

These are divine claims to exclusive authority and they could not have it.

They controlled the Temple, the Priesthood, the sacrifices.

They mediated with God.

Salvation ran through them.

They might even have been OK if Jesus agreed that the Sanhedrin and the Priesthood were one way to God – Jesus is another way – they were pragmatic – they might have worked with that.

But Jesus said – I am **the only** way.

**He had to go.**

We need to understand Jesus was not the first person who made a claim to be the Messiah.

In the decades before Jesus – the most notable ones were Theudeus, Judas – the son of Hezekiah, Simon of Perea and Judas the Galilean.



They were all political leaders fighting against the tyranny of Rome.

They attracted only small followings.

The Sanhedrin quickly said – not Messiah – and they were killed and their followers disbanded.

But, Jesus and His followers were proving more troublesome.

They handed Jesus over to be killed – but irritatingly – this One would not stay dead.

News about the resurrection and the events of Pentecost were flying around Israel.

You can imagine the conversations at every meal table – What do you think? Could it be true? – Was this Jesus actually our Messiah? Did we kill Him? Did He rise? Should we join the church?

If you are Jew – you had to at least ask the question – is Jesus the Messiah and is the church His people?

The leaders of the Jews had assumed their Jesus problem was over when they killed Him.

But in a very short space of time the Jesus problem was front and centre again and things were getting out of control.

3,000 saints – 5,000 saints.

And these Apostles were the ones at the centre of this.

The leaders of the Jews had to shut this down.

**By what power or in what name have you done this?**

Think carefully Peter – think carefully John.

There is only one answer here that is wrong – and it could be a very dangerous answer.

Verses 8–11:

Then Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders: If we are being examined today about a good deed done to a disabled man.

What? – is it a crime now to do a good deed? Is that why the most powerful group in the land is convened for two lowly fishermen?

But if you really want to know:

By what means he was healed.

We are not backing down one inch.

And we will broadcast it through the length and breadth of Israel:

Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified and whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing here before you healthy. This Jesus is **the stone rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone.**

Less than two months ago – Peter was asked by a single servant girl who whispered – don't you know Jesus?

Three times he denied it from fear.

Here he is confronted by the whole might of the Sanhedrin and his life is very much at risk.

He answers with power.

Why the stark difference?

The Spirit of God made him bold.

This miracle is done **in the name of Jesus of Nazareth** – God Himself – the Messiah – the very one this group had killed.

You misread the Scriptures, ignored the miracles – killed Him – and even when God raised Him from the dead and did even more miracles – such as this man standing here right before you healthy – you continue to deny the obvious truth.

Jesus – **the stone rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone.**

Jesus is Messiah – the point of the Law – the point of this very Temple – and He is building a new Temple made with living stones and you add each stone by faith.

And why can we not be silent? Acts 4:12:

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.

We cannot be silent because eternal life and death are at stake.

Wow!

Caiaphas – you may be high priest. Ruler over the Temple and the sacrifices. Keeper of the Law.

But you don't know the way to heaven.

You need to repent and believe Jesus when He says:

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**One name, one way.**

This is so deeply unpopular.

Surely a loving God has different ways for Jews, for Muslims, for Buddhists, for those who never hear, for those who are good and also a way for Christians?

**One name, one way.**

Some here might listen to these words and say – I would not worship a God who is so exclusive.

I think my works should count. I think Buddha makes sense.

Your gospel is unloving and arrogant.

No – it is loving and true.

In all my years as a doctor I saw some incredible tragedies.

One was a lovely lady in her 40s. When she was first seen, she had a small very treatable breast cancer.

But an online guru had convinced her surgery and chemotherapy would spread the disease and kill her.

That guru was adamant rubbing grapefruit extract over the lesion would cure it.

She came back for regular reviews convinced she was being cured.

But the lesion only grew.

A few years later it was in her lymph glands – so the grapefruit extract was rubbed over there too.

She died believing she would be healed.

Sincere belief is not enough – and can be incredibly dangerous.

It is one thing to have an opinion in areas with little consequence if you are wrong.

The Brisbane Broncos are dead set certainties for this year's competition.

Then there are areas where there are major consequences if you are wrong.

Tariffs are good for the world economy.

But then there are opinions that are just deadly if you are wrong.

I believe I can step off a building and fly.

It is decidedly unloving to say – you know I respect that opinion – have at it.

But as well – there is a decision with ultimate consequences – heaven and hell – if you are wrong.

Is Jesus the one way to eternal life?

I tell you – His life, miracles and resurrection prove it. The evidence is there.

Maybe that is not how you think God should save.

Ultimately what you and I think doesn't matter because we are not God.

His universe – His rules.

When I first heard the gospel – I loved the salvation bit.

But the bow the knee bit – I hated.

I was the ultimate authority in my life and no one else was going to take that position.

Until I came to realise – God is far better equipped to run my life than I am.

If you are here and not a Christian – there are probably things about Jesus and His teachings you like.

But other things about Him or how He runs the world you don't like.

If you were God – you would do it differently and have many ways to heaven.

But – sorry to point out the obvious – you are not God.

Brothers and sisters – I am so thankful God is God and is completely sovereign over all things.

But I am even more thankful and so amazed that He offers salvation through the blood of His Son – in the name of His Son – to the glory of His Son.

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.



## **Our King Has Come And He Alone Saves Acts 3:1-4:12 (April 6, 2025)**

**Main Point:** Jesus might not be the Messiah you want – but He is only Messiah who can save you.

### **General Questions:**

1. Can God heal today?

Does God heal today?

Does God give the gift of healing today?

2. What is the point of the healing of the man born lame in Acts 3?

3. How did this prove that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah?

4. What is healing so often used as proof that Jesus can forgive sins?

5. Why is repentance the sticking point for so many then and today?

6. Considering the miracles, the sinless life – what is it about Jesus that offended and made the Jews refuse to bow the knee?

7. What are the truths about Jesus and the gospel that might be unpalatable to many?

8. Why is the absolute sovereignty of Jesus such an issue for many?

9. What is the difference between Jesus is **a** way to God and **the** way to God?

10. Can someone be saved if they believe faith in Jesus is a way to God but not the only way?

11. Why is it so necessary to preach a gospel of one way to heaven even when many find it offensive?

12. Is the gospel unloving? Why or why not?

### **Application Questions:**

1. Why is a gospel that says there is only one way so unpopular?

2. Are there parts of the gospel you struggle with?

3. How would you answer someone that says – I think having Jesus is the only way is unloving and wrong?
4. How great is the salvation that can even forgive those who killed Jesus? What does this teach you about the love of God and the gospel?
5. Why do many reject Jesus today?

**What convicted me in the message?**

**What moved me in the message?**

**What will I do in light of the message?**